

EDITORIAL

An Exciting Scientific Program

IN THIS ISSUE, beginning immediately following Page 144, the program for the 93rd Annual Session of the California Medical Association is printed. It merits the attention of all our readers, for it represents the first great concerted effort of the Scientific Board which was formed a year ago to press forward the scientific and educational functions of this association and, where possible, to coordinate them with related interests of other medical organizations in our region.

This first program under the auspices of the Scientific Board, arranged by its Committee on Scientific Assemblies, is a development in the direction of meetings of the federated type by which it is hoped to draw together the divergent and fragmented special interests in medicine.

Outstanding guest speakers will address the three general meetings, which are built on the general theme of immunology, and will take part in panel discussions on various aspects of the subject. In addition some of them will take part in the programs of the various scientific sections.

In forming the program, the Committee worked with the officers of the Section on Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Section on Pediatrics and the Section on General Practice to supply speakers for their joint meeting on immunology.

The Sections on Internal Medicine and on Allergy joined forces with the California Chapter of the American College of Chest Physicians, the California Thoracic Society and the California Society of Allergy to obtain additional out-of-state speakers of note and to prepare an outstanding joint meeting for allergy and internal medicine.

In addition, the Section on Internal Medicine worked jointly with the California Society of Internal Medicine in preparing the program for the section.

The California Division of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology cooperated with the

Section on Obstetrics and Gynecology in sponsoring a joint luncheon meeting utilizing one of the official guest speakers provided by the Committee on Scientific Assemblies.

Closed circuit television programs originating from the University of California at Los Angeles Medical Center will be shown in a large meeting room in the Biltmore Hotel, where each program will have a moderator and a panel of discussants. One of the scheduled programs, closely linked to the theme of the meeting, is to be a live telecast of a renal homotransplantation procedure.

An extensive program of high quality medical motion pictures is scheduled for the afternoons of all four days of the meeting. These programs also will be presided over by moderators.

All in all, the coming Annual Session has in it a great deal to excite the minds of members of a profession and of an association whose first aim is the advancement of the science and the effective practice of medicine.

Malcolm H. Merrill, M.D.

PHYSICIANS THROUGHOUT California and many across the nation were cheered with the recent announcement of the reappointment of Doctor Malcolm H. Merrill as director of the Department of Public Health, State of California.

The California Medical Association and its Council join in applauding this appointment, which is eminently warranted and which promises to retain in this post for another four years a man who has compiled an outstanding record in public health.

Malcolm Merrill has served as director of the State Department of Public Health for ten years. He has served under appointments by both Republican and Democratic governors, a fact compatible with the

nonpolitical nature of his responsibilities and indicative of the value of his services in the eyes of the state's top executives.

In addition to his services in California, Doctor Merrill has distinguished himself in national and international health circles. He has been active for some years in the American Public Health Association, which in 1959 selected him as its president and named him on the selection committee for the Bronfman Award, a highly valued honor conferred for outstanding public health services in America. In foreign fields he has been chosen on numerous occasions by the federal government and by the World Health Organization to participate in or to head public health missions and surveys in some of the less enlightened nations of the world. Only recently he returned to California from one of these assignments which took him to India, Pakistan, and other far east countries.

On his home ground he has consistently displayed

a strong desire to remain in close and constant touch with the practice of medicine and with the medical profession as a whole. In this attitude he has regularly attended meetings of the C.M.A. Council, has asked the Council's opinion on projects under consideration and has freely sought consultation on matters where the views of practicing physicians are valuable to him and his department. He has made sure that consulting bodies which may influence policy decisions in the state's public health programs retain touch with the private physicians and have access to their views.

The State of California is fortunate to have a physician of this calibre in this important post. Our congratulations are extended to him, together with a renewal of the oft-repeated offer of all possible assistance and cooperation. Our congratulations and thanks also go to Governor Brown for his wisdom in making this reappointment and retaining for the state the services of Malcolm Merrill.

93rd Annual Session

Program

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